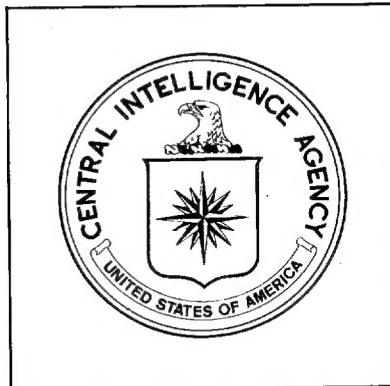


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## STAFF NOTES:

# Latin American Trends

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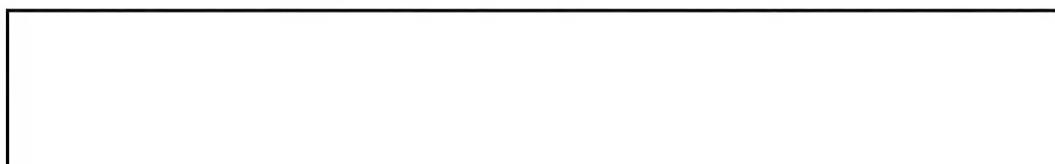
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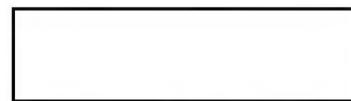
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Venezuela: Ambassador to Cuba

The recent announcement of relations with Cuba has focused attention on President Perez' possible choice for ambassador.

Although Foreign Ministry officials claim that a number of candidates are still under consideration, speculation is centering around Adolfo Raul Taylhardat, Venezuela's alternative representative to the United Nations, and journalist Luis Esteban Rey, long time member of the Democratic Action Party.

Taylhardat, a career diplomat who has served under both Democratic Action and Social Christian governments, is especially well qualified for the post. He was chosen by former president Rafael Caldera to become minister-counselor of the Venezuelan Embassy in Moscow when relations were resumed in November 1970, and in March 1973 was appointed ambassador in Port-au-Prince following resumption of ties with the Duvalier government. Taylhardat is an authority on communist trade practices and policies, a skill which may come in handy when Perez decides to negotiate trade agreements with the Castro regime.

*Adolfo R. Taylhardat*25X1  
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[REDACTED] Although Venezuela is particularly interested in selling petroleum to Cuba, administration officials are emphasizing the complementary nature of the two countries' markets and the possibility that Caracas could also export chemical and metallurgical products, iron by-products, agro-industrial goods, and farm surpluses. In return the Venezuelans are reportedly interested in Cuban sugar and certain farming products.

A second--though less probable--choice for that ambassadorial assignment is Luis Esteban Rey, a senior member of the governing Democratic Action Party, and thorn in the side of the US on many issues.

A journalist by profession, Rey is no stranger to diplomacy and is generally regarded as an authority on international affairs within the party, although his views do not always reflect party thinking. As a member of congress, Rey travelled to Japan and the People's Republic of China last fall.

Although there is no indication when Perez intends to make his choice known, the timing may not be far off. Venezuela's deputy Foreign Minister John Rafael was quoted by Prensa Latina on January 27 as saying that Perez favored a career diplomat rather than a politician for the Cuban assignment. If true, then Taylhardat's chances have significantly improved.

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Venezuela: Looking for Refineries

The visit of a prominent member of the governing Democratic Action Party to the Netherlands Antilles has added a new element to speculation that the Perez government is attempting to purchase the Shell and Exxon refineries there.

Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, one of several petroleum experts in the governing Democratic Action Party, visited Curacao last week at the invitation of the Antilles parliament to discuss the meeting of the Latin American Parliament in Caracas scheduled for February 15. Grisanti is currently serving as president of the Latin American Parliament.

Grisanti may also use the occasion, however, to talk to island officials regarding possible Venezuelan investment in the oil refineries. He is sufficiently well placed in the government oil hierarchy to conduct meaningful talks.

Venezuela's interest in the political and economic future of the Antilles has been evident for some time. Caracas officials privately admit they consider the off-shore islands historically within Venezuela's sphere of influence. Although no responsible Venezuelan official is suggesting that the country administer the islands, the Perez administration is interested in acquiring refineries to process oil for marketing in the Caribbean and elsewhere.

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Argentina: Resurgence of Left-Wing Terrorism

Following a period of reduced activity, the extremist People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) appears prepared to raise its profile.

The ERP last week threatened to conduct a campaign of "indiscriminate execution" against government officials and Peronist leaders if police authorities did not show publicly that 19 captured guerrillas were still active. The 72-hour deadline set by the ERP ultimatum passed without full government compliance, and a major terrorist action could be attempted to make good on the threat. Although the ERP has been weakened by the government's counter-insurgency drive, it still has the force to carry out random acts of terrorism.

The summer lull was shattered by a new round of killings last week and security forces are braced for another onslaught soon. A high-ranking Labor Ministry official and his bodyguard were slain in Buenos Aires following a series of assassinations that claimed the lives of several policemen and businessmen during the month. The January edition of the clandestine ERP mouthpiece El Combatiente declared that a campaign of retaliation was being launched in retribution for each "companero" killed by security forces. Government officials, military men, police, and businessmen were designated as targets. Actually, these have been the usual ERP victims for some time.

Meanwhile, federal police continue to have success in some aspects of their war on terrorism. They dealt a strong blow recently when they raided a printing plant and several propaganda dissemination sites used by the terrorists. [redacted]

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Other setbacks have included the arrest of many ERP activists and sympathizers, including some key leaders. In many cases the captures have led to new information that has enabled police to conduct additional raids.

The recent terrorist offensive is probably calculated to show that the ERP is not on the run as the government claims. Moreover, the terrorists may be attempting to take advantage of the uneasy atmosphere created by reports circulating widely in Argentina that presidential adviser Lopez Rega's extraordinary power is generating tensions within the Peronist government. Military, labor, and opposition party distaste for the imperious presidential secretary became the subject of much public speculation shortly after the President moved to her summer retreat and apparently left Lopez Rega to conduct government business.

Should infighting within the Peronist ranks intensify or should Mrs. Peron be faced with a governmental crisis, the terrorists would be encouraged to expand their attacks in hopes of aggravating the situation.

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Argentina: Poor Outlook for 1974-75 Grain Crop

Unfavorable weather conditions and ineffective government policy have resulted in a major drop in the Argentine wheat crop for the 1974-75 season. Only 4.8 million tons of wheat are being harvested this year--the lowest crop since 1969-70. In the 1930s, Argentina was the world's second largest wheat exporter and accounted for half of the world's beef exports and up to 80 percent of the corn. Now, Argentina accounts for a mere 8 percent of the total world production of grain, and beef production has declined 23 percent. In fact, Argentina may have to import wheat in late 1975 to meet commitments to Latin American and European buyers.

The outlook for major summer crops, corn and sorghum, does not appear quite so dismal, however. Good rains and optimum temperatures during the critical tasseling period have boosted hopes for a good corn crop of about 10 million tons. Nevertheless, farmers will again be plagued by inadequate storage and transport facilities. Insufficient storage space for sorghum and excessive moisture caused a serious reduction of exportable grain in 1974 with sorghum losses estimated at over one million tons of the 5.9 million produced.

Argentine grain production and exports are far below potential due to government mismanagement of agricultural matters. The policy of subsidizing consumption through artificially low domestic prices has seriously depressed production incentives. The government offers the farmers a mere fraction of world prices for their products, with corn and wheat growers receiving only about half the prices quoted in international commodity centers. Argentine

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economists recognize the shortcomings of their agricultural policies and have observed that if the nation had kept pace with other producers, such as the United States and Canada, and had pursued an aggressive foreign trade policy, it could have been exporting an annual total of 45 million tons of grain for the past 30 years instead of merely 12.5 million in the best of times. [redacted]

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Jamaica: Political Violence Denounced

Political groups on the right and left are accusing the Manley government of using violence to cow the opposition. From the right come charges by the Jamaica Labor Party that Prime Minister Michael Manley is trying to impose his brand of "socialism" and create a one-party state. Manley has admitted that members of his People's National Party were responsible for a recent series of attacks on Labor Party personnel and property, but claimed that this was in response to incidents of violence by Labor.

In the most serious episode, on January 20, some 60 motorcycle-riding toughs injured two Labor Party workers in a raid on a local headquarters in the home district of Housing Minister Anthony Spaulding. The minister reportedly sent the gang to recover 5,000 bogus People's Party voter registrations that the opposition had uncovered during its campaign to defeat Spaulding in the next parliamentary elections. Labor Party chief Edward Seaga denounced the attacks and said that the government's "pious expressions of regret" did not absolve it of responsibility.

On the left side of the spectrum, the aggrieved party is Trevor Munroe, a Marxist teacher at the University of the West Indies and vice president of the university workers' union. Munroe and a group of his union organizers were beaten on December 6 by thugs armed with knives, pickaxes, and clubs. The assault came only a day after the conclusion of a wildcat strike by dockworkers that completely closed the port of Kingston. The strike apparently was fomented by Munroe in order to embarrass the two long-established dockworkers' unions--which are allied to

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the People's Party and the Labor Party--and to gain adherents for his newer, more militant union.

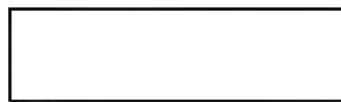
In addition to his activities with the unions, Munroe is trying to put together a Marxist-Leninist workers' political organization called the Workers' Liberation League that eventually could serve as the base for his political ambitions. This effort could present Manley's party with its first significant challenge from the left since its Marxist wing was expelled in the early 1950s. Since coming to power in 1972, Manley has tried, with some success, to accommodate Jamaica's far left within his party, but he could now face a rival who claims that the Prime Minister's heralded "socialism" is only a capitalist plot to delude the workers.

Manley's response thus far has been to warn all sides that the government will not tolerate political violence by any group. Even if Manley did not sponsor the recent acts of violence, the environment in which he operates is conducive to its use. The two political parties grew out of labor organizations in which violence was a common tool, and political ward bosses like Spaulding and Seaga continue to control gangs in order to intimidate the opposition. The burgeoning ranks of the jobless form a ready pool for the politicians to draw on.

A factor that could at least temporarily dampen the violence is the concern of Manley and Seaga that unless they hold the reins fairly tightly, some of their violence-prone followers could get out of hand. Manley already has his hands full with the urban crime problem, and he would not want to see new fuel added by political squabbling. He will probably make a real attempt to hold it down. His efforts are not likely to take violence out of the Jamaican political system, however. [redacted]

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Cuban Chronology for January 1975

(This is the first in a series of monthly chronologies of events concerning Cuba.)

January 2: 16th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. (no major address given)

A youth delegation from the Democratic Action Party (AD) of Venezuela arrives in Havana. (This is the first officially sanctioned AD delegation to visit the island since relations were broken in 1961.)

Brg. Cmdr. Zenen Casas Regeriro, First Deputy Minister of Cuban Armed Forces and Chief of the General Staff, received by Syrian President Al-Asad in Damascus.

January 3: Radio Havana hails the 16th anniversary of the Revolution. (quietly)

Mrs. Echeverria arrives in Havana heading a Mexican Cultural delegation. Greeted by Castro, President Dorticos. Visit concluded on January 10.

Cuba-North Korea Trade Protocol for 1975 is announced in Havana.

Dorticos meets with Italian Socialist Party leader, Cesare Bensi, member of the Italian Parliament.

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January 4: Delegation headed by Major German Torres of the Panamanian National Guard arrives in Havana to participate in the celebration of "Panama Solidarity Week." (January 4-11)

Castro meets with Mexican Tourism Secretary, Julio Hirschfeld.

January 6: Costa Rican Legislative Assembly delegation arrives in Havana.

January 7: Cuban-West German negotiations regarding establishment of relations begin in Paris.

January 10: Polish First Secretary Gierek arrives in Havana on an official visit.

Cuban Communist Party delegation headed by Secretariat member Isidoro Malmierca arrives in Hungary.

January 12: Dorticos decorates Gierek with Jose Marti Order.

January 13: Cuban Fishery Vice-Minister Alavaro Lavastida heads delegation to Mexico to discuss exploitation of the sea.

January 15: Vice Prime Minister Carlos Rafael Rodriguez arrives in Paris on an official visit. This is the first time a leader of the Castro regime has been invited to France.

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Cuba and Mexico sign an agreement on such cooperative programs as exchanges of technicians, scholarships, training.

January 16: Cuba and France sign major trade agreement.

Bulgarian Communist Party delegation, headed by Ivan Prumov, member of the secretariat, arrives in Havana.

January 17: Communique issued in Warsaw and Havana on Gierek's visit to Cuba--Castro is invited to visit Poland.

Delegation headed by Vice Prime Minister Belarmino Castilla Mas arrives in Moscow.

Guillermo Garcia Frias, Jamaican Transport Minister, arrives in Havana.

Venezuelan delegation of Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV) arrives; met by Cuban labor leaders.

January 18: Official joint communique announces resumption of relations between Cuba and West Germany.

January 21: Vice Prime Minister Rodriguez arrives in Moscow for CEMA Executive Committee meeting.

Mexican Secretary of National Properties, Francisco Javier Alejo, arrives in Havana.

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France grants Cuba credits for 1975-76 amounting to 1.5 billion francs.

Vice Prime Minister Rodriguez invites French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to visit Cuba. The invitation is accepted.

**January 23:** Delegation of the Lao Patriotic Front meets with Raul Garcia Pelaez, member of the PCC Secretariat.

Alipio Zorrilla is designated Ambassador to Nigeria (former Cuban ambassador to Tanzania).

**January 24:** Isidoro Malmierca heads Cuban delegation arriving in Budapest.

Castilla Mas signs Cuba-USSR Trade Agreement.

**January 25:** Cuban delegation headed by Viera Linares, director of International Organizations and Conferences, arrives in Algiers to prepare for the non-aligned meeting.

**January 28:** Granma declares Brezhnev's visit "outstanding event in our country in 1974."

Malian trade delegation arrives in Havana.

Dorticos receives Gabriel Valdez, assistant administrator of UN programs for Latin America.

Havana announces signing of Cuban-Polish cooperation agreement.

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January 30: Cuba participates in first UN Latin American Regional Group meeting held since 1965.

Algerian Public Health delegation arrives in Havana headed by Public Health Vice Minister, Dr. Ahmar Benhamouda.

Cuban-Hungarian Academies of Science sign cooperation accord.

A Czech youth delegation headed by Jindrich Polednik, President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Union of Youths, concludes visit to Cuba.

January 31: Cuba and Panama sign civil aviation agreement.

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